

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated April 18, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

The Examiner objects to claims 1, 2, and 4-6. With respect to the Examiner's object, Applicant notes that line 3 does not recite a seal pattern, but rather "a seal pattern region" (as amended). Thus, Applicant believes the recitation of "a seal pattern" in line 15 does not create any §112 issues. Applicant amends claims 1 and 24 to clarify the the feature recited in the claim.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-11, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,627,470 to Yoo.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11, 23, and 24 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a portion of the passivation layer is removed in each of the plurality of pixel regions to thereby expose the gate insulating layer, and wherein the passivation layer is removed in the non-display region" as recited in claim 1. Claims 7 and 8 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "the passivation layer is removed in each of the plurality of pixel regions to thereby expose the gate insulating layer...[and] the plurality of pixel regions selectively cover the passivation layer" as recited in claim 7. Claim 24 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites elements including "the passivation layer is removed in each of the plurality of pixel regions to thereby expose the gate insulating layer...[and] the plurality of pixel regions selectively covers the passivation layer".

None of the cited references including Yoo singly or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the features of the claims. For example, claims 1, 7, and 24 recite "the passivation layer is removed in each of the plurality of pixel regions". Claims 10, 11, and 23 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a passivation layer is removed in the boundary region...[and] the pixel electrode selectively covers the passivation layer" as recited in claim 10. Yoo does not disclose or suggest

“the passivation layer is removed” and the selective covering of the passivation layers as recited in the independent claims.

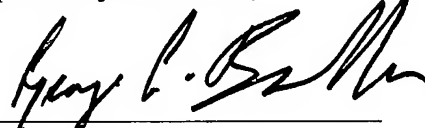
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and discussion place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: July 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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